

MEDICAL NEWS,

FACTS, NOTICES, AND REMARKS.

AMORPHOUS QUININE.—*To the Editor.*—Mr. Bullock says, in reply to Mr. Redwood, "Your readers well know, if Mr. Redwood does not, that many organic substances undergo various transformations or changes when subjected to various processes and influences. They are perfectly familiar with examples of such bodies having exactly the same constitution and composition existing under two or more modifications, which are sometimes only distinguishable by the one being soluble in a given menstruum, while the other is insoluble." This is but a poor argument in favour of Mr. Bullock's preparation; for although the black, pitchy mass noticed by Mr. Redwood as left after the action of ether on Mr. Bullock's amorphous quinine may be identical in composition with the pure article, it by no means follows that it has the same medicinal effect. A great difference is said by Mr. Bullock to be observed between the action of the amorphous and crystalline varieties of quinine; and I ask if a corresponding difference may not be reasonably expected to exist in the effect of the portions of amorphous quinine, soluble and insoluble in ether?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, J.F.L.

Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Amongst other petitions presented to the House of Lords in favour of the Medical Registration Bill, was one numerously signed by medical practitioners residing at Alloa, Dollar, Clackmannan, Hallhill, and Tillicoultry.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The fifth annual report of this institution has lately been issued, from which it appears that the number of out-patients treated during the past year at the hospital and out-patient branch is 1,511; the number at the time under treatment is 335; the total number treated since the hospital was established—in-patients, 273; out-patients, 4,893. Upwards of 700*l.* has been collected in churches, in aid of the hospital, since April of last year; and, partly by the example and instrumentality of the Bishop of Durham, a sum of 500*l.* was obtained for the building fund. The committee desire to make reference to the generous support the charity has received from the public press—of the provinces as well as of the metropolis. From all parts of the kingdom, patients have been received and succoured, and there is at present in the hospital one from Gibraltar. The report concludes by stating that the amount of contract for erecting and completing the western wing and part of the centre of the new building at Brompton is 11,762*l.*, while the expense of laying out and inclosing the ground, &c., exclusive of fittings, is 1,684*l.* To meet these sums—viz., 13,446*l.*, the committee have received, in less than two years, 8,749*l.*, leaving a balance of present liabilities of 5,312*l.*; and having in hand 615*l.*, the balance to be provided is 4,679*l.*

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Clinical Collections and Observations in Surgery, made during an Attendance on the Practice of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. By W. P. Ormerod, F.R.C.S.E., late House-Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. London: Longmans, Brown, and Co., 1846. pp. 312.

The Student. Part for September, 1846. London: Aylott and Jones. Pamphlet.

A Guide to the Use of the Buxton Waters. By W. H. Robertson, M.D. Pamphlet.

Fever Physiologically Considered: Considerations on Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever, Plague, Cholera, and Sea-scurvy; also, the Questions of Contagion and the Quarantine Laws. By David McConnell Reid, Esq., Licentiate of Medicine, &c., &c. London: Churchill. 8vo, pp. 262.

An Appeal to the British Nation, on the Greatest Reform yet remaining to be Accomplished. By James S. Buckingham. Read and Adopted at the World's Convention, held in London, August, 1846. London: Ridgway. 1846. pp. 14. * * It has been proved by Parliamentary evidence,—sifted, examined, and scrutinized, but never yet confuted or denied,—that the actual expenditure of money, in Great Britain alone, exclusive of all her colonies, in the mere purchase of intoxicating drinks, exceeds fifty millions sterling; a sum greater than the whole revenue of the kingdom, from every available source. Does this vast expenditure make any one stronger, or healthier, than if he abstained entirely from its use? The united intelligence of the most enlightened and eminent medical men of the country answers NO!—p. 4.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Can any of our correspondents state when Mr. R. KNOX discontinued delivering his lectures on anatomy in Edinburgh, and when he ceased signing certificates of attendance on those lectures? If this notice should be seen by Mr. Knox himself, probably he would supply us with the required information. We should state, that it is applied for at the request of a correspondent, who believes that more than one individual has obtained his diploma by means of fraudulently-acquired testimonials, and that Mr. Knox is one of the individuals on whom the fraud was successfully practised.

A Chemist.—We have alluded to the worthless affair, called *The Pharmaceutical Times*, elsewhere. We can recommend both the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and *The Chemist*. Michael Cooke wants payment in advance, which is almost as instructive as the cry of—"Take care of your pockets."

Sophy writes very angrily, but, we think, without just cause. We had not the most distant intention of writing a disrespectful word relative to the catholic clergy as a body, and it was not our object to draw a distinction between those members of the protestant clergy and the catholic clergy, respectively, who are guilty of being the abettors of quacks and quackery. It was our purpose to denounce the conduct of both sets of clerical abettors of crime in equally severe terms, and we design to act similarly in future. If we do not find protectors of morals amongst the clergy, whether protestant or catholic, where are they to be discovered? The QUACKS are almost THE WORST MISCREANTS IN EXISTENCE. They DECEIVE, they ROB, they TORTURE, they KILL. Their ABETTORS are the next to them in guilt; and when the clergy support and encourage such impostors, they forget their own position, and the nature of the high duties which they are called upon to discharge in society; and they become the authors of an incalculable amount of evil. Again we assure our angry correspondent, that we meant our strictures to apply with equal severity to both sets of delinquents, and that we hold in equal esteem the protestant and the catholic clergy.

X. X.—We believe that the school which formerly existed in Charlotte-street, and "Dermott's" school, are identical. We do not recommend "Dermott's" school. Neither do we advise our correspondent to enter at the Westminster Hospital. When the students become attendants at hospitals and schools of anatomy and medicine, which are situated at a distance from each other, they generally make for themselves the worst possible arrangement, and incur a great loss of valuable time. In every instance, if it be possible, they should select for attendance, a hospital which has, in close connexion with it, a school which contains teachers that are well known for their abilities and industry, and the faithful discharge of their duties. Above all things, they should avoid engaging to attend a hospital which is situated in one district, and a school which is located in another. The scene for the day's labour and study should, if possible, be found under one roof, or, certainly, in contiguous buildings.

We have been requested to notice "a public advertisement for patients," inserted in the *Guernsey Comet*, June 29th, by a person who described himself as attached to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. We refer our correspondent to THE LANCET of July 18th, and of August 8th, where he will find, that in consequence of our having directed the attention of the authorities of the Hospital to the publication of a paragraph of a precisely similar character in the *Sheffield Iris*, June 11th, a rigorous investigation was instituted, which terminated in the immediate dismissal of the offending party from his post of assistant-dispenser, by order of the treasurer. We published on authority the result of the inquiry.

A Medical Student.—It is not necessary to enter for the whole of the lectures to obtain the privileges which he desires at the medical school in question.

Mr. Denton, whose paper appears in the present number, will find his former communication, respecting an improved catheter, in THE LANCET, vol. i. for 1842-3, p. 168.

ERRATA.—Dr. J. H. Davis requests us to make an essential alteration in the punctuation of a passage, in the fourth case of his Contributions, &c., in THE LANCET, Sept. 5th, 1846, page 273, line 23 from bottom of second column. For "the placenta was thrown off spontaneously at my subsequent visit on the following morning. The patient was going on in every respect favourably, &c.," read, "the placenta was thrown off spontaneously within a quarter of an hour. At my subsequent visit on the following morning, the patient was going on, &c." Also, at the close of the same case, page 274, for "inordinate assistance," read "inordinate resistance."

Dr. Egan desires us to intimate to our readers, that they should omit the words, "unless some abrasion had occurred," at the termination of his article, bearing on the question, "Is secondary syphilis contagious?" in THE LANCET for Aug. 22nd, page 215.

Communications have been received from—Mr. Sands Cox, (Birmingham); Mr. Holmes Coote; Mr. F., (Liverpool); Dr. Craig, (Paisley); Mr. Brett; Mr. Bonney; Mr. Lambert, (Hull); Mr. Tearne; Mr. D. Phelan; Mr. J. J. English, (Brampton, Cumberland); Mr. S., (Plymouth); A Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Summum Jus, &c.; J. F. L.; Mr. Barber; Mr. J. F. Nicholls; Mr. C. T. Courthope; Mr. J. F. Murgatroyde; Mr. John Compton; Mr. Henry Bildersleigh; A Correspondent, (who asks the question respecting Dr. David Bell); Mr. Thomas Edwards; Mr. F. S. Garlick, (whose letter will be inserted); Dr. Cattell, (Braunston, Northamptonshire); Mr. Harrold, (Teering); Dr. Mayne, (Leeds); Mr. Edwards, (Llansainfrail); Mr. Hooper, (High Wycombe); Mr. Jones, (Bristol); Mr. Kirk, (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Mr. G. W. Sparrow; Mr. D. O. Edwards; Mr. Massie; Mr. T. Lloyd; Mr. Fenner, (Great Yarmouth); Mr. Staniland; Mr. Potter; Mr. Grove, (Wandsworth); A Surgeon, (Oakham); Mr. Stuart, (Chigwell); Medicus; Iota; Anti-Quackery; T. C. D.; An Apprentice; A Medical Student.